



Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Barrow Hedges Primary School – Platinum Award for Safeguarding

I am delighted to inform you that, in recognition of our excellent safeguarding work, we have been awarded a Platinum Award for Safeguarding. This was confirmed last week, following an audit on Monday 15th November 2021.

The audit covered various aspects of our work which fall under 'safeguarding', specifically:

- Leadership and management
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Statutory compliance, guidance and policies
- Attendance
- Strategic leadership of safeguarding and training
- Managing allegations
- Multi-agency working
- Recording and reporting
- Behaviour and bullying
- Site safety: supervision of pupils / entry and exit / visitors / first aid
- PSHE curriculum
- ICT
- Staff voice
- Pupils' views
- Preventing extremism

As with any such inspection, there will always be areas where further improvements can be made, but we are so pleased that for us, these are very minor 'tweaks', the majority of which we have already been working on, as identified in our improvement plans.

As you can see from the following Executive Summary, there were so many strengths:



Harbury Road Carshalton Surrey SM5 4LA

Telephone 020 8643 4428

office@barrowhedges.com

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Is the school compliant with its safeguarding duties?

Yes

Is safeguarding effective?

Yes

Strengths

There are many strengths in relation to Safeguarding at Barrow Hedges and an effective culture is well embedded. Reviewers would draw your attention to the following areas of particular strength.

1. Leadership and Management - Safeguarding is embedded from the top down; all senior leaders are acutely aware of the importance of securing the policies, practices, protocols and procedures that make up the school's safeguarding framework and it is this rigor that sets the tone and establishes the culture of safeguarding. The DSL and other senior leaders demonstrate excellent leadership and management skills within their role. She is well qualified, experienced, committed to improving all aspects of safeguarding across the school and has an impressive level of expertise that ultimately ensures that all members of the school community are safe.
2. Work with Multi Agencies - The DSL and members of the safeguarding, mental health and 'pastoral' teams have worked hard to develop strong professional links with a range of services that can offer them advice and guidance, as well as offering specific support to their pupils (and often families). The school are focused on securing the best outcomes for pupils, they offer early help at school level, make timely and comprehensive referrals where appropriate and will challenge the passing back of referrals where necessary. The collaborative work between professionals is a key strength of the school.
3. PSHE - PSHE is well led by an knowledgeable and committed Lead teacher. The curriculum is delivered through discrete lessons but is also supported through Philosophy for Children circles which allow for discussion and debate. Curriculum intent and implementation is clear and the lead has ensured that the curriculum fulfills RSE statutory guideline expectations. The curriculum had also been adapted to support a return to school after COVID-19 restrictions and the lead works with the safeguarding team to ensure it is adapted for arising issues. Pupils spoke well about lessons where they had learnt to keep themselves safe and staff felt well supported to deliver sessions. Quality assurance strategies are in place to ensure parity of delivery and assess impact.
4. Site - The site is well managed and clear from all hazards, with a clear system of checks and monitoring in place to ensure that it remains so. Record keeping in relation to fire and critical incident drills was excellent and procedures well embedded. Risk assessments in relation to trips and visits were good and the EVC appropriately trained. First Aid procedures were good. Children were well supervised at the start and end of the day as well as at social times. As a result they feel and are safe on site.

I am sure you will agree that this is a super way to end the term; with a reminder that the children's safety and wellbeing is at the heart of what we do and that we will always do our very best in this area of the school's work.

At the foot of this correspondence is a letter I received from the Chair of Trustees which I wanted to share with parents. I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Kind regards,



Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher



Cirrus Primary Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 09642581. Registered office address: Avenue Primary Academy, Avenue Road, Sutton SM2 6JE

Correspondence/office address:

Cirrus Primary Academy Trust
c/o Wallington Primary
Academy, Mollison Drive,
Wallington, SM6 9JN

Telephone: 02086693978
email: office@cirrustrust.uk

Mrs L. Wood
Headteacher
Barrow Hedges Primary School
Harbury Road
Carshalton
SM5 4LA

10 December, 2021

Dear Mrs Wood,

PLATINUM AWARD FOR SAFEGUARDING

At our Trustees Board Meeting last evening we were delighted to hear of Barrow Hedges highly successful external Safeguarding Audit. This external review is an independent validation of the work you and the whole staff team do to keep children safe.

The Platinum Award is only given to those schools which have the highest standards of safeguarding and Trustees recognize the significance of this award.

Our thanks go to you, your safeguarding team of Designated Safeguarding and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads and the whole staff team at Barrow Hedges. Please pass on our thanks to Ms Duncan, Ms Rondeau and Ms Wilson who in their roles of DSL (which is shared with you) and DDSL make an invaluable contribution to both the systems and culture of safeguarding in your school.

Thank you for all you do to keep your children safe.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr Peter Simpson
Chair of Trustees